

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



ROUTE 912 BYPASS
BAN LABOY
LAOS

NPIC/R-11/69

JANUARY 1969

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Route 912 Bypass
Ban Laboy, Laos

The new bypass road under construction around the Ban Laboy chokepoint in Laos is nearing completion, according to photography of [REDACTED]. The Ban Laboy chokepoint has been a major obstacle to the movement of supplies over Laos Route 912 due to heavy and repeated air strikes. The speed with which the new bypass is being constructed appears to be part of a concerted effort by the North Vietnamese to assure the continued movement of supplies toward South Vietnam by vehicle.

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The bypass was first observed on [REDACTED] and consists of a 10.2-nautical mile (nm) clearing through rugged terrain and dense vegetation. It will provide an alternate route around the Ban Laboy chokepoint, which is located at the intersection of the Nam Ta Le (river) and Laos Route 912. Route 912 is an extension of North Vietnam Route 137 and is one of only two major motorable infiltration routes from North Vietnam to the Ho Chi Minh trail. The other route is through the Mu Gia Pass.

Vehicle tracks have been observed on the new road as far west as the ford across the Nam Ta Le, 6.3 nm west-southwest of the northern junction with Route 912, and clearing operations continue south for the remaining distance to the southern junction with Route 912. Although only limited vehicular traffic has been reported moving on Route 912 in recent months, considerable traffic has been noted on Route 137 in North Vietnam and numerous supplies are observed in transshipment areas in the vicinity of Route 137.

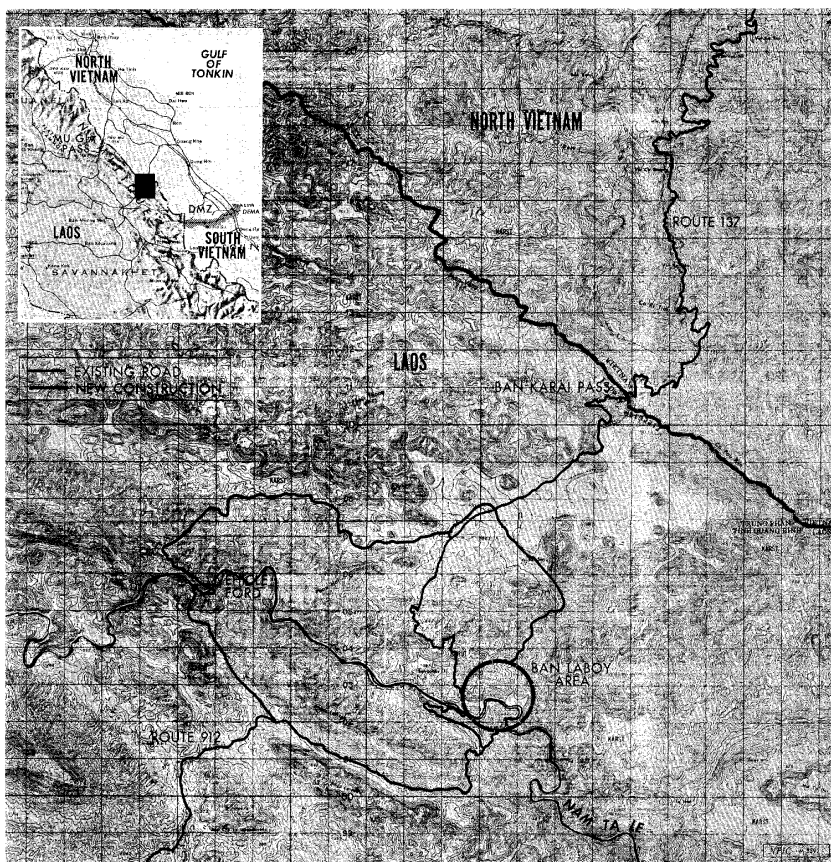


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION MAP.

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